

***The Assistance to Firefighters Grant will allow the SCFD to purchase new equipment essential to the safety of the community and department personnel*** □

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**Washington, DC** – Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) today announced that the Santa Cruz Fire Department has been awarded \$657,000 through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security. The awarded funds will allow the department to purchase fire equipment essential to the health and safety of the public, as well as that of the department's personnel.

“Our brave firefighters risk their lives everyday for the greater safety of our communities,” said Congressman Farr. “We must meet their unwavering commitment by helping them stay safe with the best equipment available. This grant will go a long way in not only increasing safety for firefighters and the communities they serve, but will help avoid additional costs to the city government struggling to close its budget deficit.”

Since 2001, the AFG has provided approximately \$4.6 billion in grants to first-responder organizations to obtain much-needed emergency response equipment, personal protective equipment, firefighting and emergency vehicles, and training. Using a competitive process that is overseen by fire service subject matter experts, AFG grants are awarded to applicants whose requests best address the priorities of the AFG Program.

“The City of Santa Cruz is very pleased with the announcement that we have been awarded a \$657,000 Assistance to Firefighters Grant for the purchase of a new fire truck,” said Santa Cruz City Fire Chief Ron Oliver. “We are grateful to Congressman Farr for his support and help—both in obtaining the grant, and for his support of the Fire Service. Fire protection equipment, while essential for the protection of our communities, is not the only need local government must fund. In this difficult fiscal time, this grant allows Santa Cruz Fire Department to obtain a piece of equipment that helps us better serve our citizens and visitors—and through mutual aid agreements, our neighboring communities. It also allows the City of Santa Cruz to apply our limited resources toward other types of equipment needed to serve our community.”

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